

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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EB-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CU-02 AID-05 SCCT-01 /086 W

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R 271401Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8260

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JERUSALEM 1151

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, JO

SUBJ: HEBRON MAYOR'S ACCOUNT OF AMMAN VISIT

REF: JERUSALEM 1131

1. SUMMARY: MAYOR QAWASMI SAYS JORDANIANS HAVE SIGNED AN AGREEMENT OF INTENT TO GIVE FINANCIAL AID FOR HEBRON'S MUNICIPAL PROJECTS. MORE WEST BANK STUDENTS TO BE ADMITTED IN ARAB UNIVERSITIES. THE MAYOR DENIES KNOWLEDGE OF ANY ATTEMPT BY JORDAN TO GATHER WEST BANK SIGNATURES FOR ANTI-PLO STATEMENT. DOWNPLAYS POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF HIS TRIP. END SUMMARY.

2. HEBRON MAYOR FAHD QAWASMI, WHO RETURNED AUG. 22 FROM A NINE-DAY TRIP TO AMMAN DURING WHICH HE MET WITH KING HUSSEIN, TOLD CONGEN OFFICER THAT HEBRON'S DELEGATION SECURED A SIGNED PROMISE FROM THE JORDANIAN MINISTER FOR OCCUPIED TERRITORIES OF FINANCIAL AID FOR CITY PRO-
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JECTS. HOWEVER, QAWASMI SAID NO SUM OR SPECIFIC PRO-

JETS WERE DESIGNATED. ALTHOUGH HE FOUND JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS RECEPTIVE, WAWASMI SAID THEY WERE PREOCCUPIED WITH PROBLEMS OF INFLATION, ON ONE HAND, AND A DECREASE IN AID FROM SAUDI ARABIA AND KUWAIT, ON THE OTHER.

3. WHILE IN AMMAN, WAWASMI ALSO MET WITH AMBASSADORS OF ARAB STATES AND PLEADED THE WEST BANK CASE BEFORE THEM. ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT THINK THESE MEN WERE VERY INFLUENTIAL, HE TOOK SOME SLIGHT SATISFACTION IN THEIR PROMISE TO INCREASE THE NUMBERS OF WEST BANK STUDENTS IN THEIR COUNTRIES' UNIVERSITIES.

4. WAWASMI SAID HE WAS UNAWARE OF ANY ATTEMPT BY THE JORDANIANS TO COLLECT WEST BANK SIGNATURES FOR AN ANTI-PLO STATEMENT. (REF JERUSALEM 1131) HE DISMISSED SPECULATION THAT HIS TRIP SIGNIFIED A TILT BY WEST BANKERS TOWARDS THE KING. AMMAN, HE SAID, WAS THE WEST BANK'S ONLY DIRECT ACCESS TO THE ARAB WORLD AND THE ONLY CHANNEL THROUGH WHICH THE ISRAELIS PERMITTED AID TO FLOW. THEREFORE, IT WAS NATURAL FOR MUNICIPALITIES TO MAINTAIN CONTACTS THERE. ALSO, THE LARGE NUMBER OF PALESTINAIANS IN JORDAN MADE FOR NATURAL AFFINITY BETWEEN THE WEST AND EAST BANKS. ANY INDEPENDENT WEST BANK STATE WOULD NECESSARILY HAVE TIES TO JORDAN, HE SAID, BUT NO ONE ENVISIONED A RETURN TO THE PRE-1967 RELATIONSHIP.

5. A SEPARATE HEBRON SOURCE TELLS US WAWASMI EXPLAINED HIS TRIP AND ANSWERED QUESTIONS AT A MEETING OF SEVERAL HUNDRED HEBRONITES AUGUST 25. WAWASMI DENIED THAT POLITICAL SUBJECTS HAD BEEN DISCUSSED IN FORMAL MEETINGS BUT ADMITTED SUCH EXCHANGES HAD TAKEN PLACE IN PRIVATE TALKS. REPORTEDLY, SEVERAL QUESTIONERS PRESSED THE MAYOR AS TO WHY HE HAD MADE TRIP TO JORDAN AT THIS TIME.

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